



## Renata Salecl

FEBRUARY 11, 2005

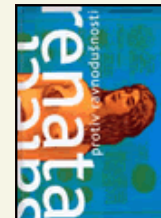
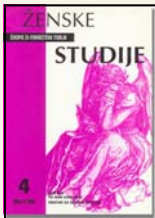
4:30-6:00pm

Hagerty Hall 255

### ***Tyranny of Choice: Why Society Without Limits Brings More Dissatisfaction***

**Synopsis:** In late capitalism, the nature of social prohibitions seems to have changed. People are less and less obliged to follow rules imposed by authorities and are more and more perceived as “self-creators” who can make out of themselves what they wish to. Psychoanalysts observe that many patients today enter analysis with the demand: “I need to reinvent myself!” While people seem today free to make choices in regard to their private and public lives that were unimaginable in the past, this freedom of choice actually did not bring more satisfaction. Some psychoanalysts are worrying that when social prohibitions are less operative this might bring higher incidences of psychosis. The lecture will explore timely questions like: what kind of changes affect subjectivity in the new millennium; which are the new symptoms that people are suffering from; do we live in society that on the one hand pushes us to search for limitless enjoyment while on the other hand prohibits it; what is the nature of dissatisfaction that people experience today?

**Biography:** Centennial Professor at the London School of Economics. Senior Researcher at the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law University of Ljubljana. Visiting posts: New School for Social Research in New York, the Cardozo School of Law in New York, the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Humbolt University in Berlin.



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